

# Applications of quantum transport in devices

Gerhard Klimeck

Jet Propulsion Laboratory,  
California Institute of Technology

gekco@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-354-2182  
<http://hpc.jpl.nasa.gov/PEP/gekco>

# Application of Quantum Transport in Devices

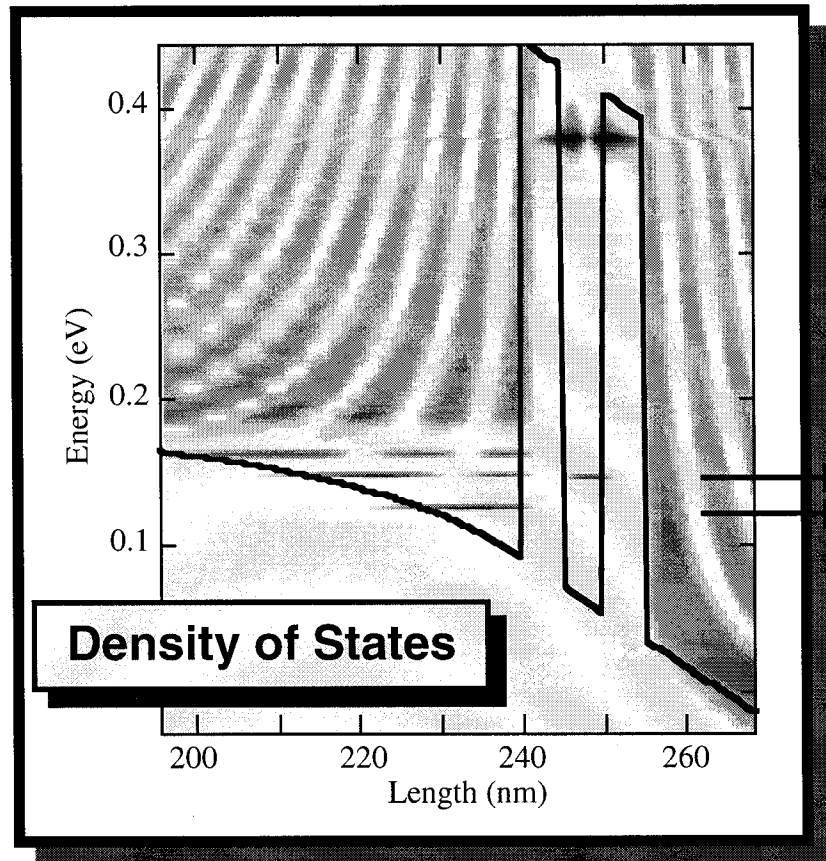
- **What is the focus of the research?**
  - **Quantum Transport**
    - => Devices/Structures are a tool to explore the needed theory**
    - Relevant Theories:  
Green Functions, Wigner Functions, Rate Equations
    - Relevant Structures:  
quantum dots/wires, molecules, RTDs (for time dependence only)
  - **Devices / Applications**
    - => Quantum transport is a tool to design/optimize devices**
    - Relevant devices: super-scaled FETs, RTDs, Esaki diodes
    - Need quantitative agreement between experiment and theory
      - DC, high bias performance
      - AC / time-dependent high bias performance
    - Need realistically sized devices - contacts/reservoirs.
    - Need realistic electron interactions with environment:  
phonons, light, bandstructure.

# Quantitative Modeling of Devices

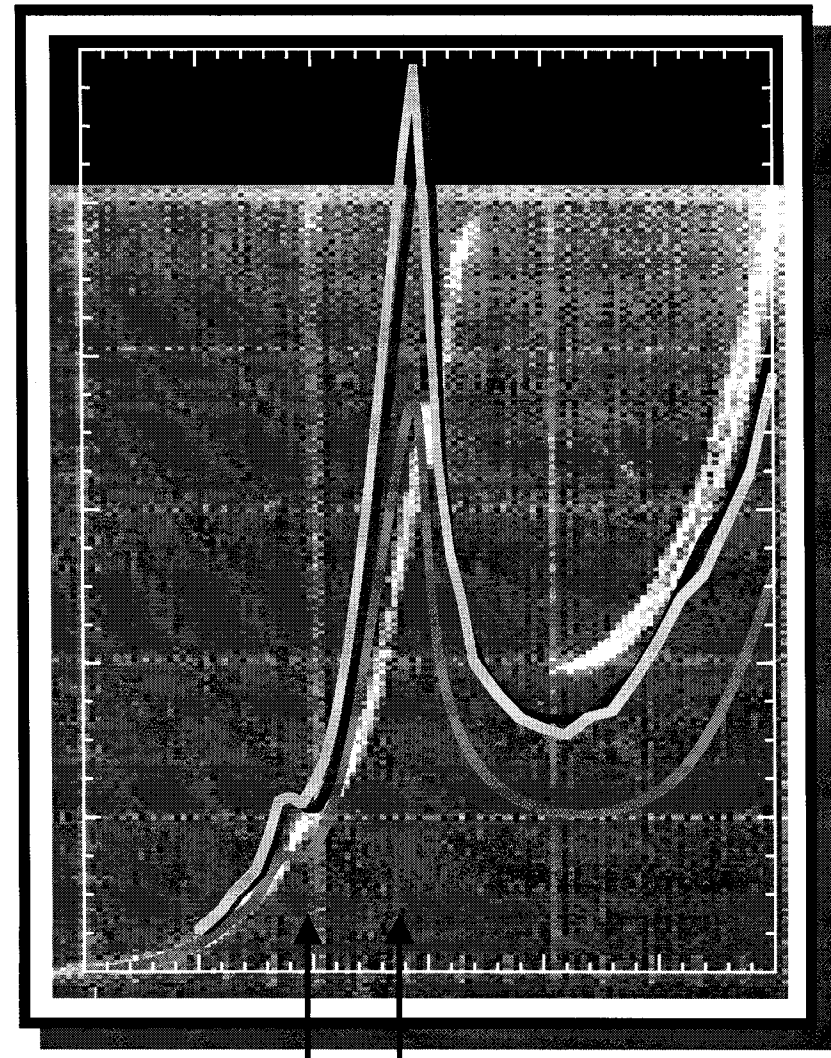
Quick review of DC transport simulations in RTDs - NEMO 1-D

- Realistic contacts:
  - Quantized and continuous states in the emitter
- Realistic bandstructure:
  - Band-non parabolicity - emitter states and RTD state alignment
- Putting it together:
  - Valley current at high temperatures due to bandstructure effects (thermionic emission)
  - Bistability (in symmetric structures) a numerical problem due to limited device models
  - Test matrix - comparison to experiment

# Realistic Devices have Extended Contacts



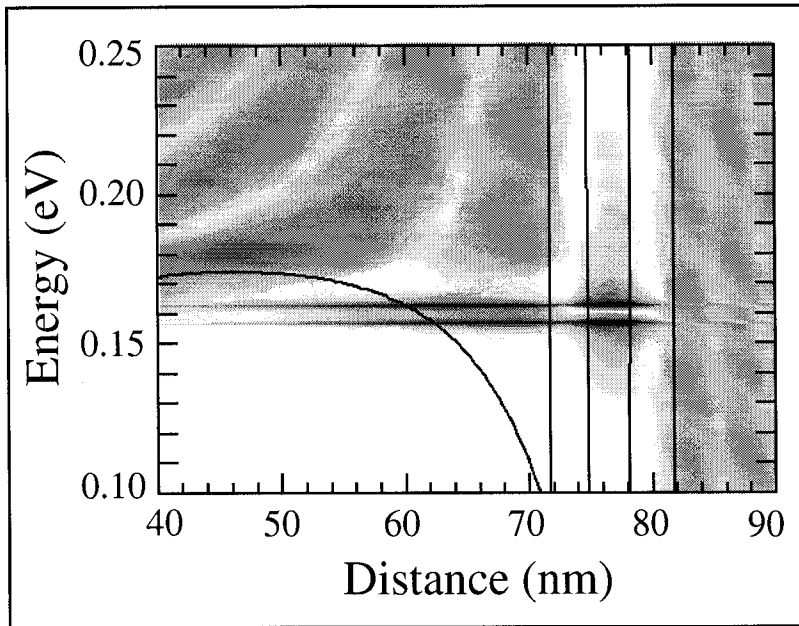
	Potential	Current
—	1 Band	1 Band
—	2 Bands	2 Bands
—	1 Band	10 Bands



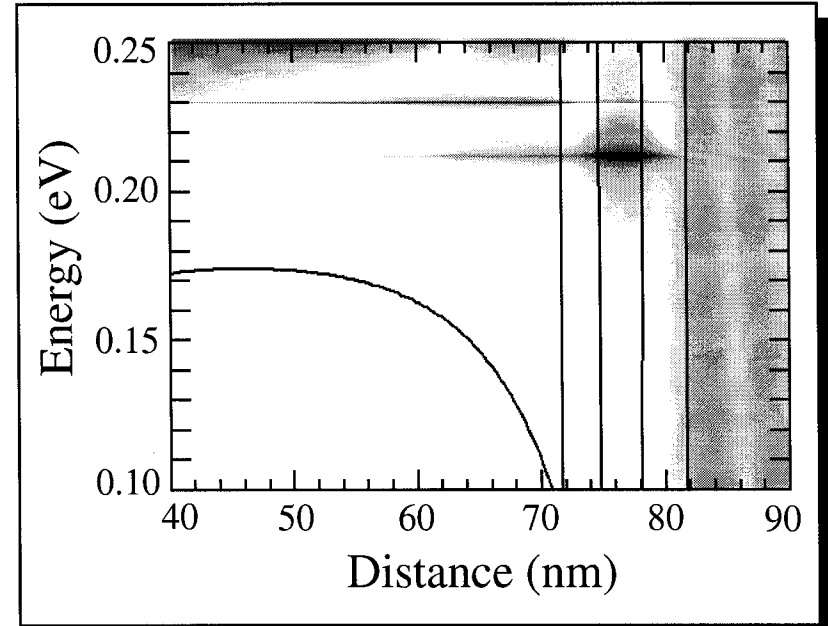
Quantum selfconsistent potential

# Band non-parabolicity modifies momentum dependence in emitter-RTD coupling

Density of States ( $k_x=0.00$ )

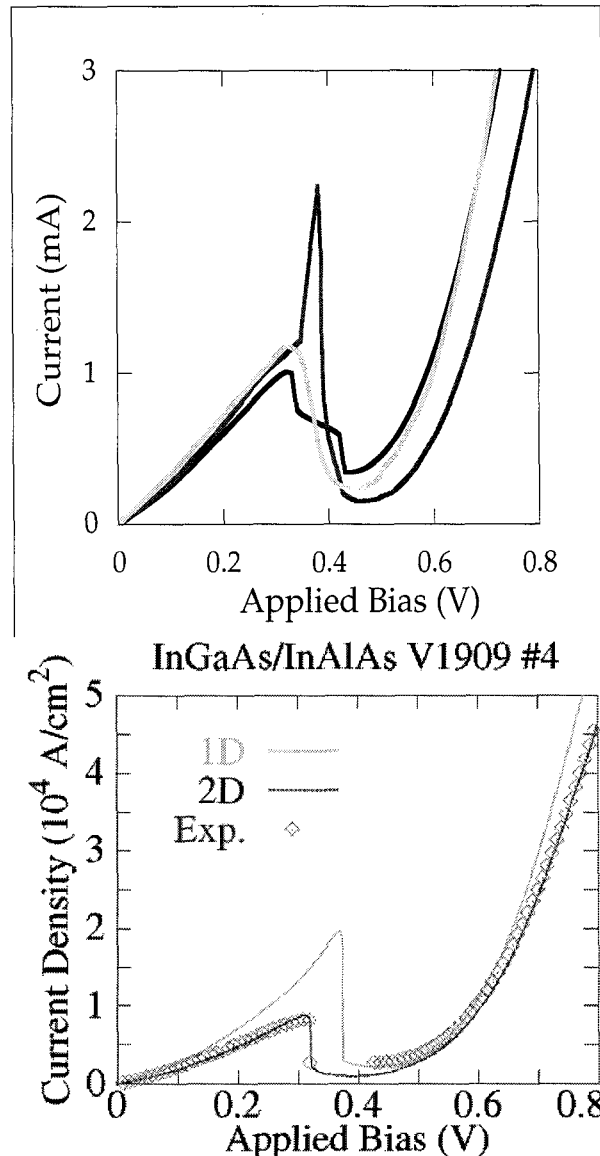


Density of States ( $k_x=0.03$ )



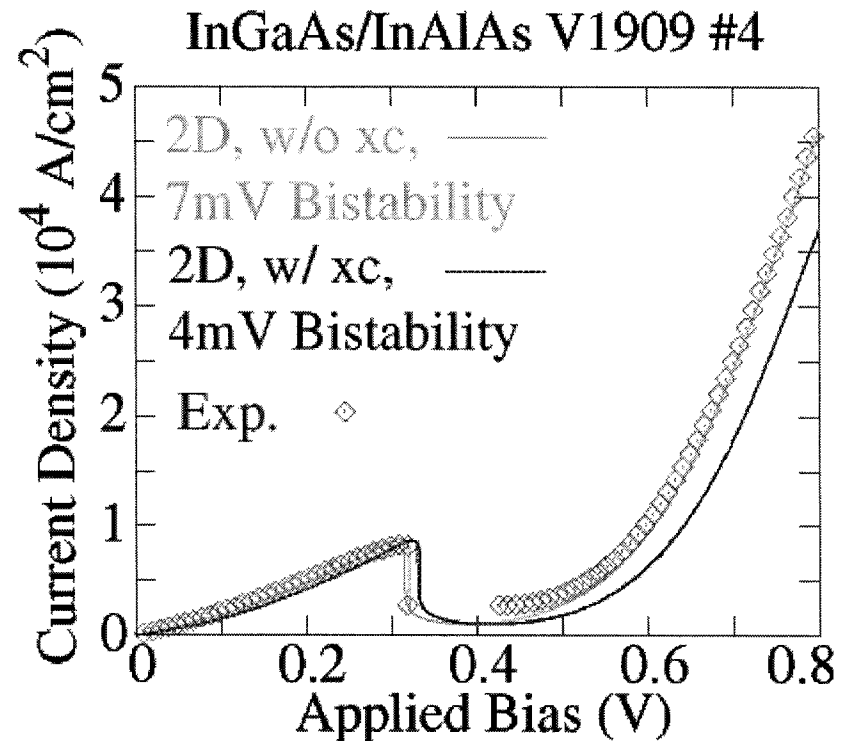
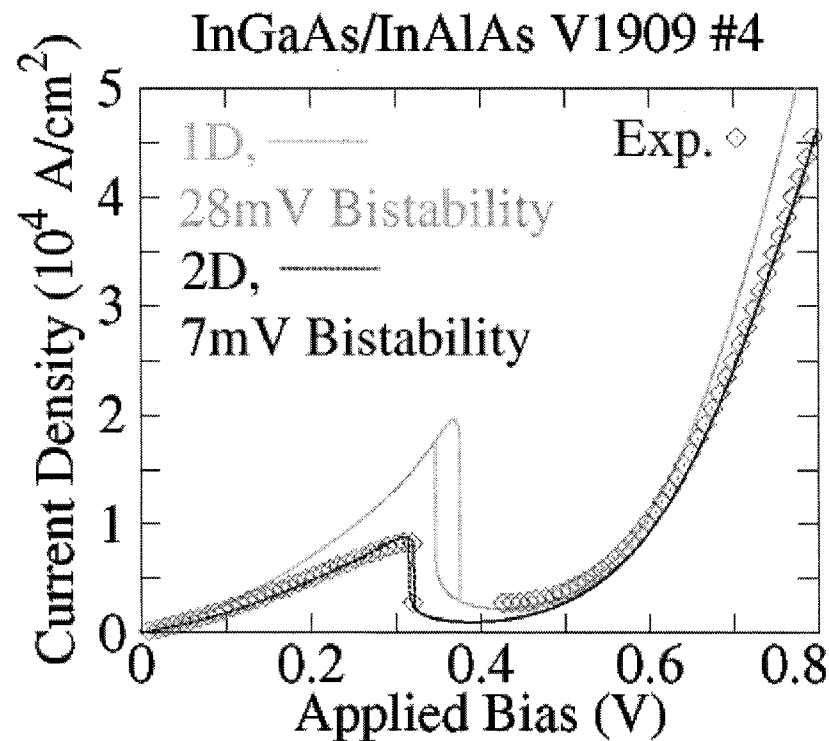
**Resonance coupling depends on the transverse momentum**

# Full Band Simulation of Electron Transport



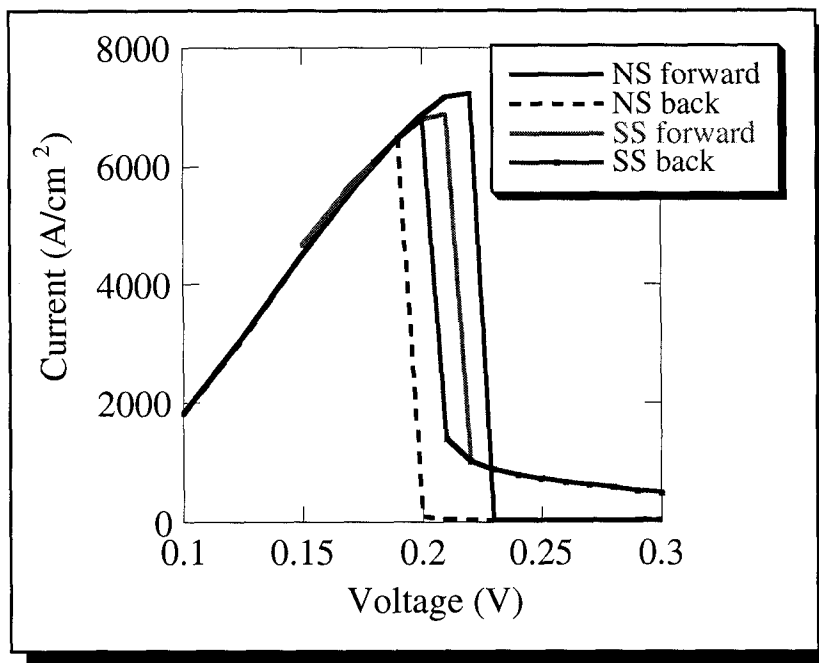
- 1D integration assuming parabolic subbands can lead to unphysical current overshoots.
  - 2 Examples on InGaAs/InAlAs simulations:
    - Sp<sup>3</sup>s\* simulation with partial charge self-consistency  
-> sharp spike at turn-off
    - Parameterized single band simulation which incorporates the band-non-parabolicity  
-> overall current overshoot.
- > 2D integration with good bandstructure fixes these unphysical results.

# Spurious Bistability: More Physics -> Better results Full band integration + Exchange&Correlation



- Calculate the exchange and correlation potential in LDA.
- Exchange and correlation energy does not eliminate (in general) the bistability, it does reduce it however.
- Inclusion of scattering in the simulation reduces the bistability region as well.

## Scattering also reduces the numerical bi-stability

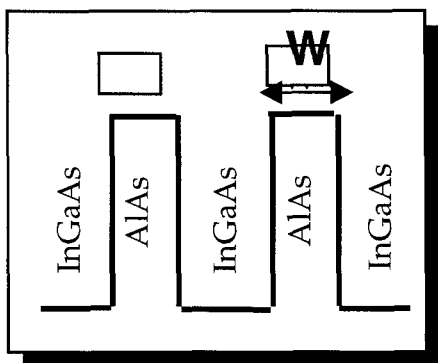


- **Current Model:**
  - self-consistent elastic and single tridiagonal POP scattering
- **Potential Models:**  
**Hartree self-consistency**
  - no scattering
  - selfconsistent elastic and tridiagonal POP scattering
- **Compare forward to reverse bias sweep:**
  - Scattering reduces the width of the bistability region.
  - not shown: inclusion of exchange correlation does not change the width of the bistability in this device.

# Testmatrix-Based Verification (room temperature)

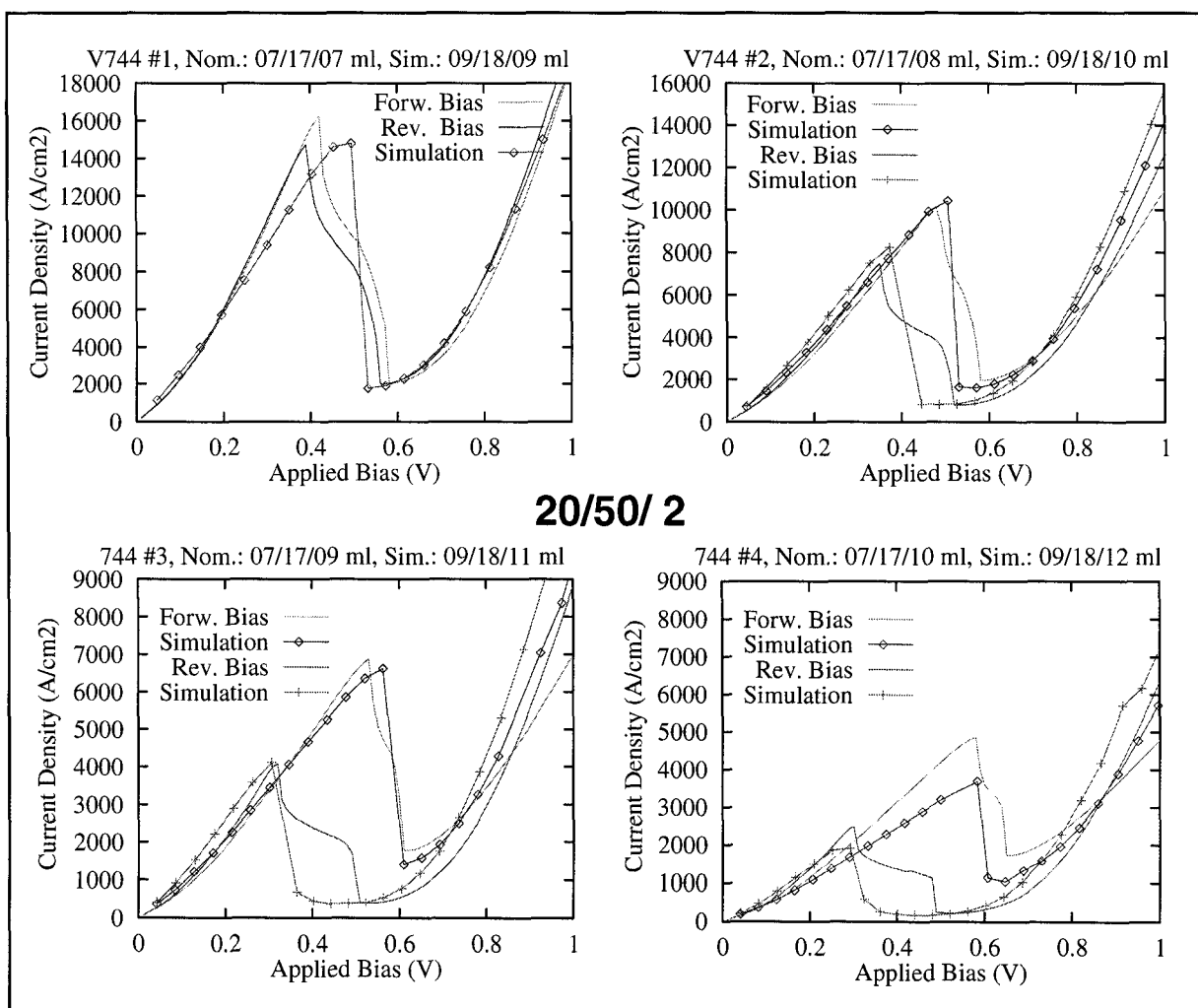
## Strained InGaAs/AlAs 4 Stack RTD with Asymmetric Barrier Variation

**Vary One Barrier Thickness**



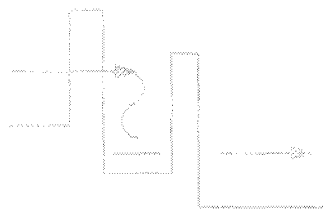
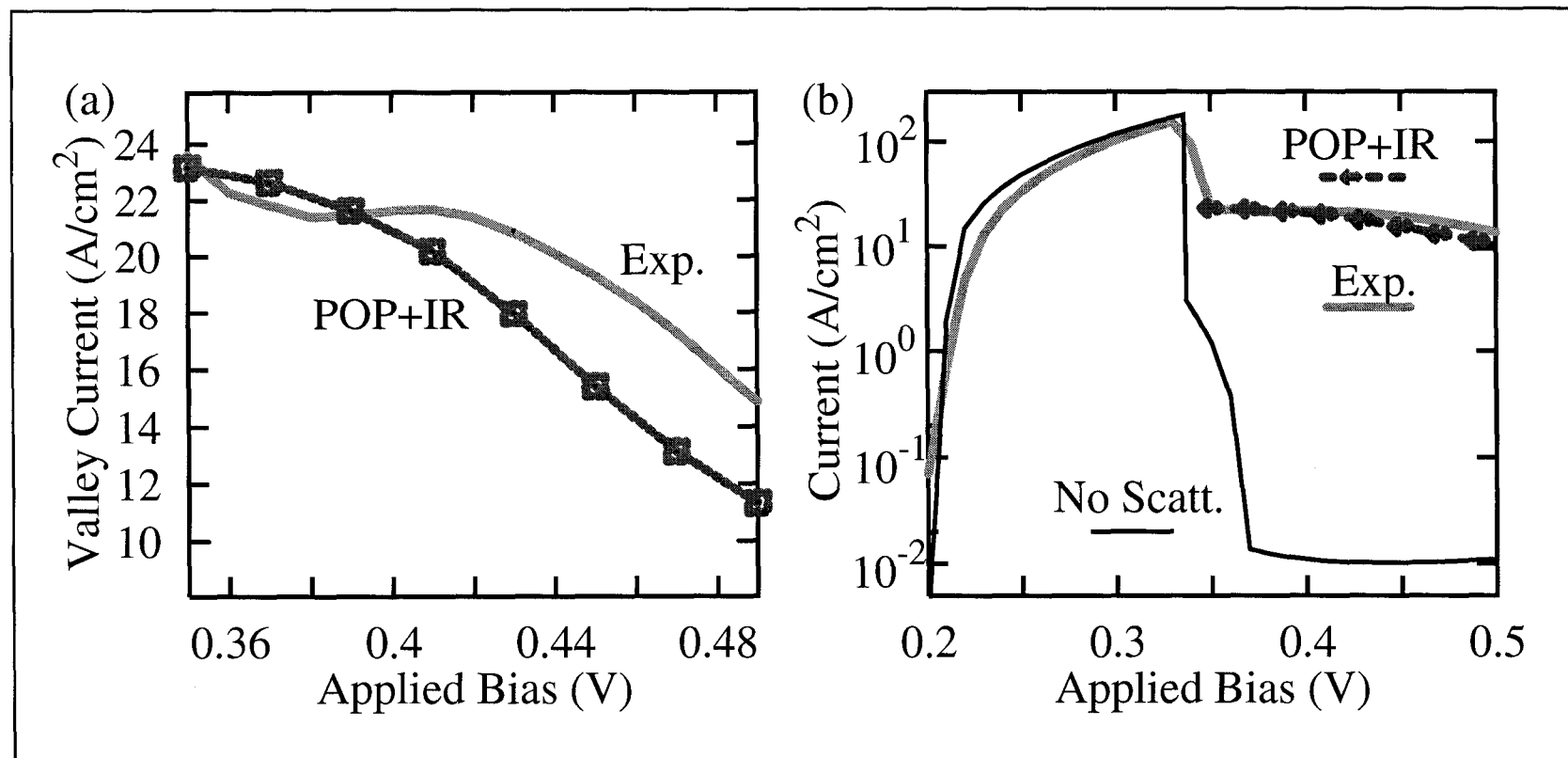
**Four increasingly asymmetric devices:**

20/50/20 Angstrom  
20/50/23 Angstrom  
20/50/25 Angstrom  
20/50/27 Angstrom



**Presented at IEEE DRC 1997**

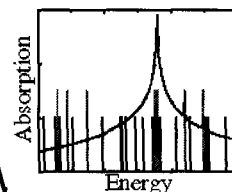
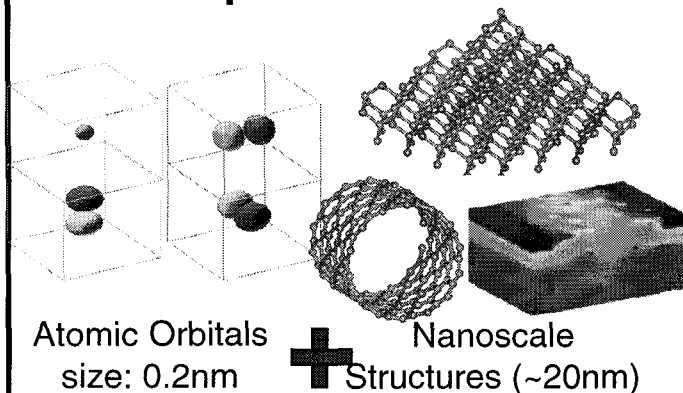
# Tow Temperature: Polar Optical Phonon and Interface Roughness Scattering



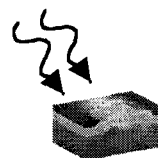
scattering raises valley current  
by several orders of magnitude

# Nano-scale Device Analysis / Synthesis

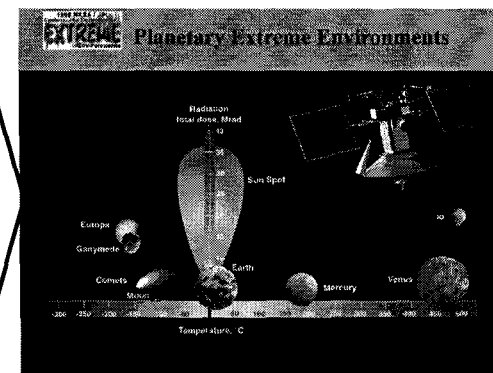
## Development of a Bottom-Up Nanoelectronic Modeling Tool (NEMO-3D)



New Devices for  
Sensing and  
Computing



Analyze Devices:  
Environment  
and Failures



### Assertions / Problems:

- Nanoscale structures are built today!  
The design space is huge: choice of materials, compositions, doping, size, shape
- Radiation on today's sub-micron devices modifies the electronics on a nanoscale.

### Approach:

- Deliver a 3-D atomistic simulation tool
- Enable analysis of arbitrary crystal structures, particles, atom compositions and bond/structure at arbitrary temperatures and ambient electric and magnetic fields.

### Collaborators:

- U. of Alabama, Ames, Purdue, Ohio State, NIST

### NASA Relevance:

- Enable new devices needed for NASA missions beyond existing industry roadmap:
  - Water detection -> 2-5 $\mu$ m Lasers and detectors.
  - Avionics -> High density, low power computing.
- Analyze state-of-the-art devices for non-commercial environments:
  - Europa -> Radiation and low temperature effects. Aging and failure modes.
  - Jovian system -> Magnetic field effects
  - Venus -> high temperature materials: SiGe

### Impact:

- Low cost development of revolutionary techn.

## Speakers in the Program

- **Carlo Jacoboni,**  
**Modena University,**  
**“The Wigner function and quantum transport”**
- **Harold Grubin,**  
**SRA, Inc.,**  
**“Modeling resonant tunneling diodes with Wigner functions and density matrices”**
- **Dejan Jovanovic,**  
**Motorola,**  
**“Non-equilibrium Green’s functions for MOSFET modeling”**

# Applications of quantum transport in devices

Gerhard Klimeck

Jet Propulsion Laboratory,  
California Institute of Technology

gekco@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-354-2182  
<http://hpc.jpl.nasa.gov/PEP/gekco>

# Application of Quantum Transport in Devices

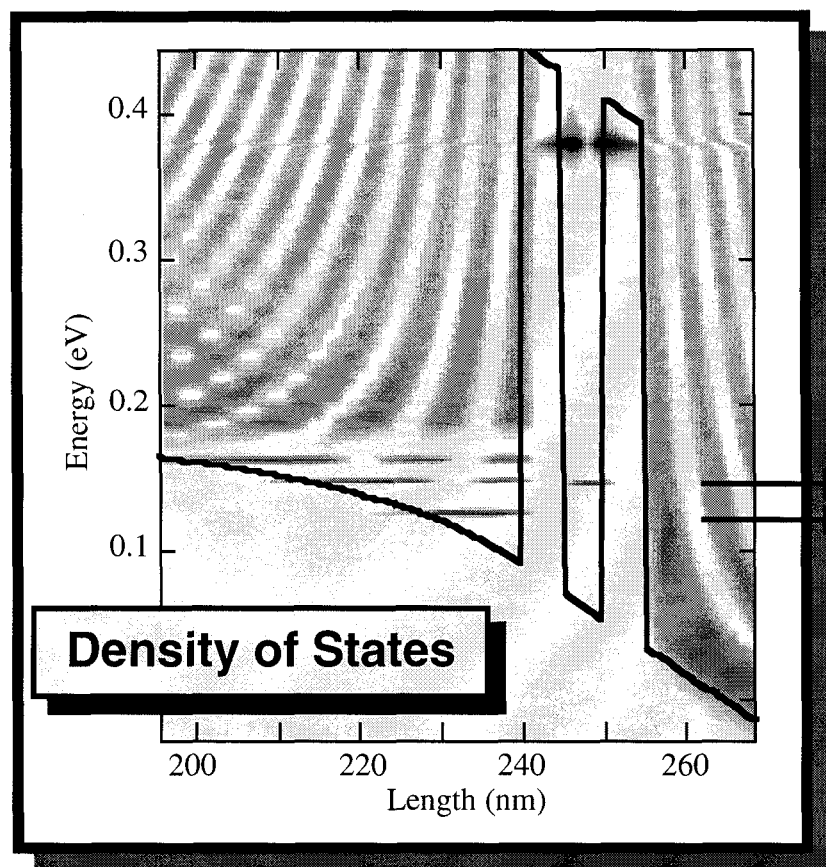
- What is the focus of the research?
  - Quantum Transport
    - => **Devices/Structures are a tool to explore the needed theory**
    - Relevant Theories:  
Green Functions, Wigner Functions, Rate Equations
    - Relevant Structures:  
quantum dots/wires, molecules, RTDs (for time dependence only)
  - Devices / Applications
    - => **Quantum transport is a tool to design/optimize devices**
    - Relevant devices: super-scaled FETs, RTDs, Esaki diodes
    - Need quantitative agreement between experiment and theory
      - DC, high bias performance
      - AC / time-dependent high bias performance
    - Need realistically sized devices - contacts/reservoirs.
    - Need realistic electron interactions with environment:  
phonons, light, bandstructure.

# Quantitative Modeling of Devices

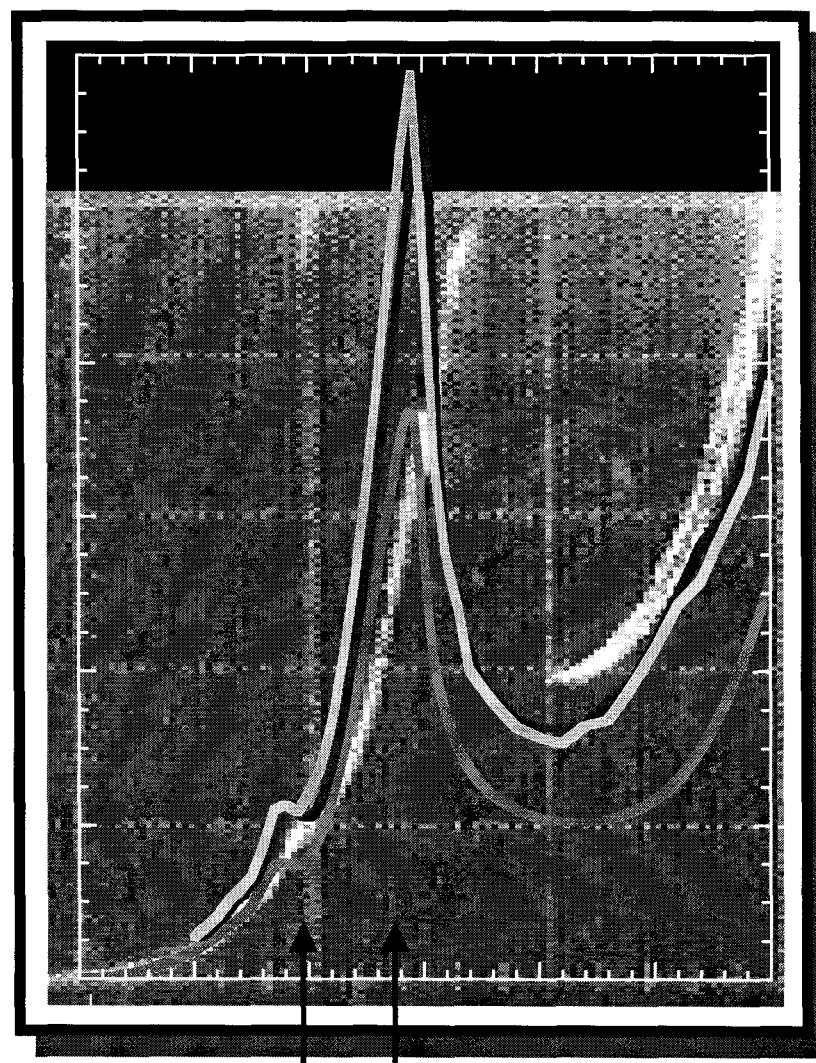
Quick review of DC transport simulations in RTDs - NEMO 1-D

- Realistic contacts:
  - Quantized and continuous states in the emitter
- Realistic bandstructure:
  - Band-non parabolicity - emitter states and RTD state alignment
- Putting it together:
  - Valley current at high temperatures due to bandstructure effects (thermionic emission)
  - Bistability (in symmetric structures) a numerical problem due to limited device models
  - Test matrix - comparison to experiment

# Realistic Devices have Extended Contacts



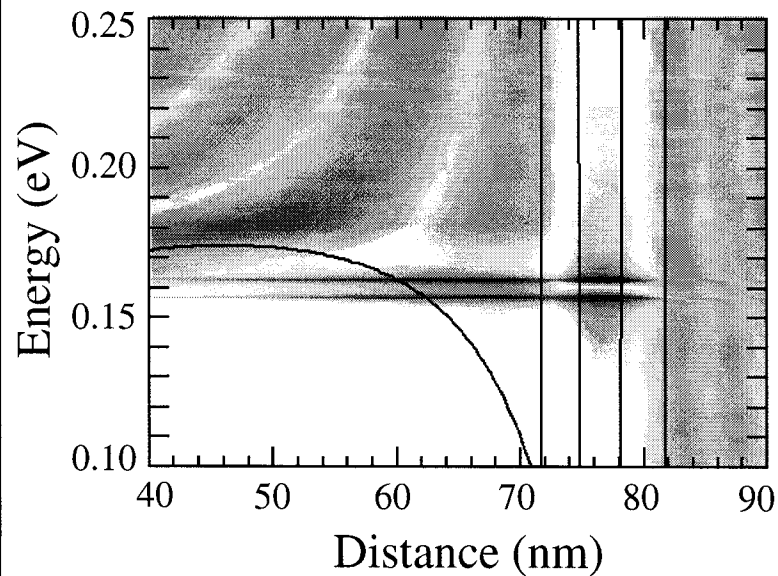
	Potential	Current
—	1 Band	1 Band
==	2 Bands	2 Bands
---	1 Band	10 Bands



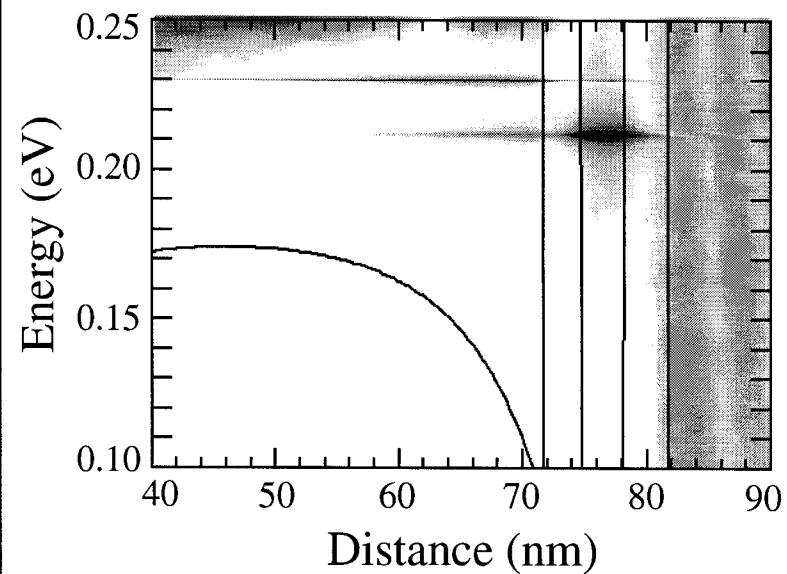
Quantum selfconsistent potential

# Band non-parabolicity modifies momentum dependence in emitter-RTD coupling

Density of States ( $k_x=0.00$ )

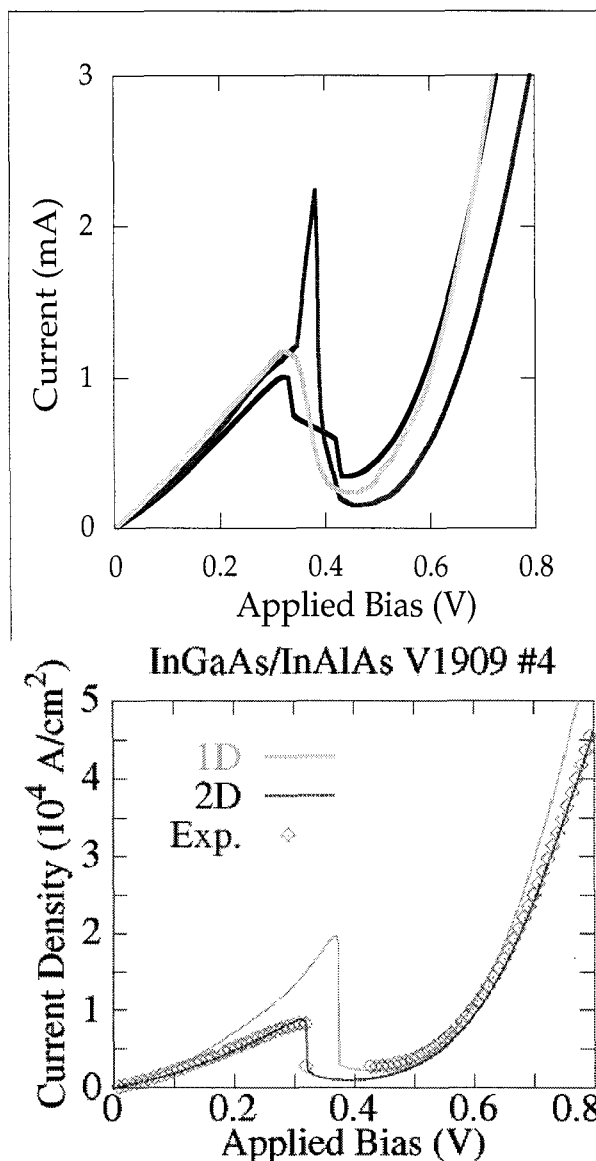


Density of States ( $k_x=0.03$ )



**Resonance coupling depends on the transverse momentum**

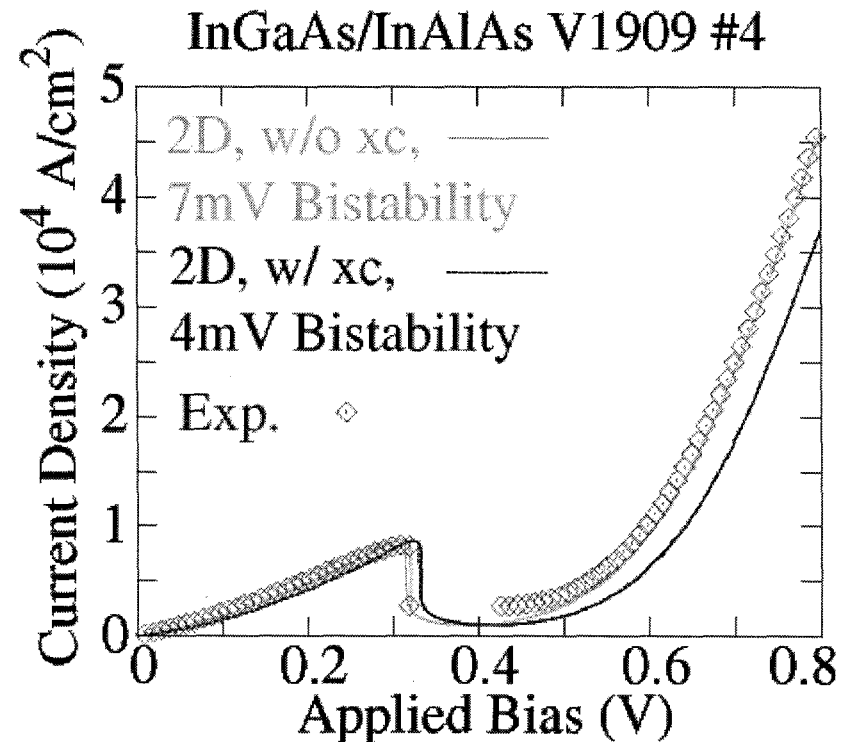
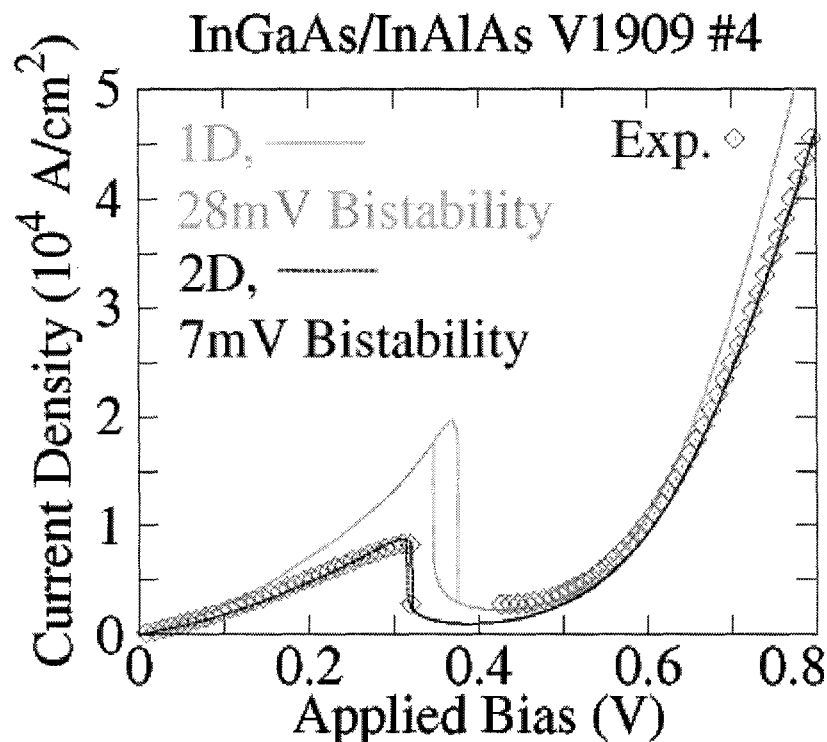
# Full Band Simulation of Electron Transport



- 1D integration assuming parabolic subbands can lead to unphysical current overshoots.
  - 2 Examples on InGaAs/InAlAs simulations:
    - Sp<sup>3</sup>s\* simulation with partial charge self-consistency  
-> sharp spike at turn-off
    - Parameterized single band simulation which incorporates the band-non-parabolicity  
-> overall current overshoot.
- > 2D integration with good bandstructure fixes these unphysical results.

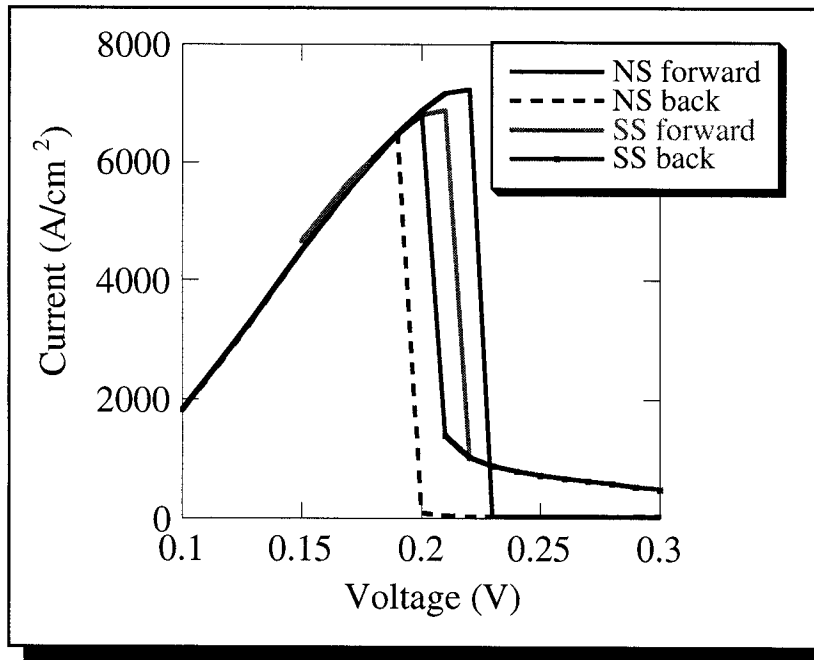
# Spurious Bistability: More Physics -> Better results

Full band integration + Exchange&Correlation



- Calculate the exchange and correlation potential in LDA.
- Exchange and correlation energy does not eliminate (in general) the bistability, it does reduce it however.
- Inclusion of scattering in the simulation reduces the bistability region as well.

# Scattering also reduces the numerical bi-stability



- **Current Model:**

- self-consistent elastic and single tridiagonal POP scattering

- **Potential Models:**  
**Hartree self-consistency**

- no scattering
- selfconsistent elastic and tridiagonal POP scattering

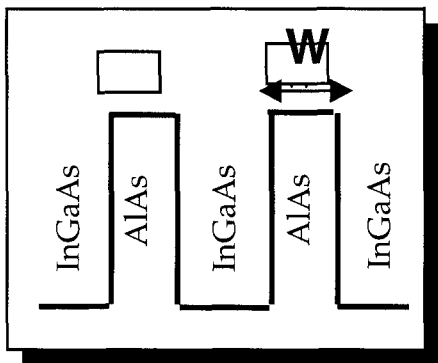
- **Compare forward to reverse bias sweep:**

- Scattering reduces the width of the bistability region.
- not shown: inclusion of exchange correlation does not change the width of the bistability in this device.

# Testmatrix-Based Verification (room temperature)

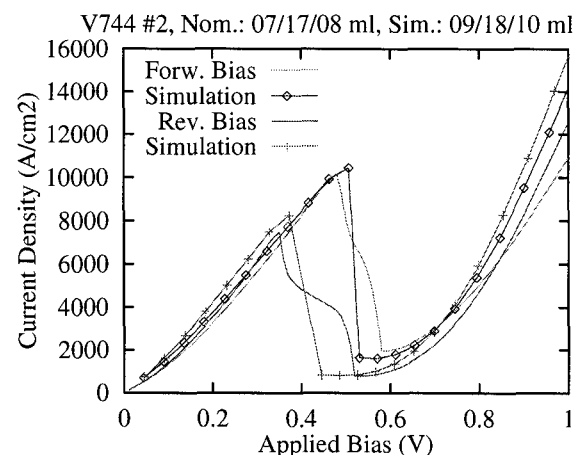
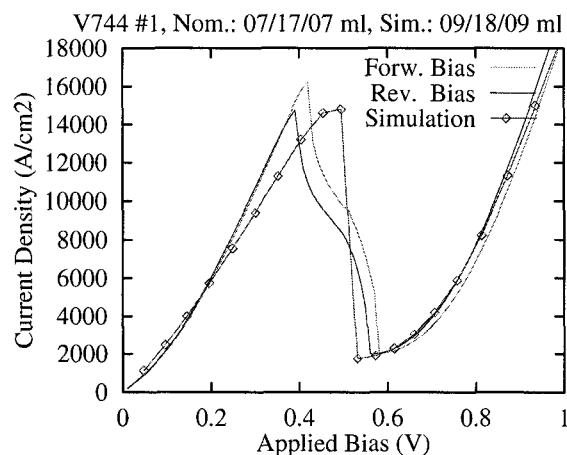
## Strained InGaAs/AlAs 4 Stack RTD with Asymmetric Barrier Variation

**Vary One Barrier Thickness**

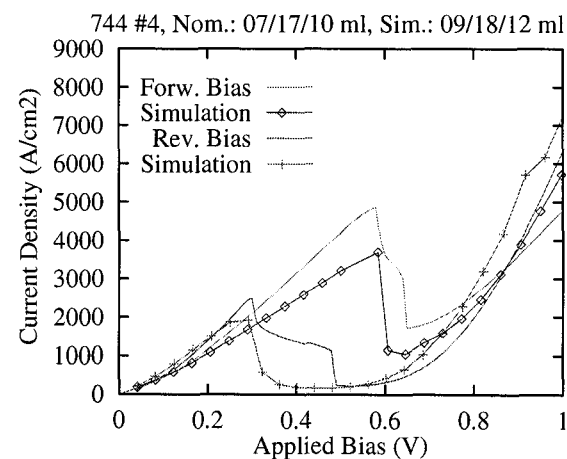
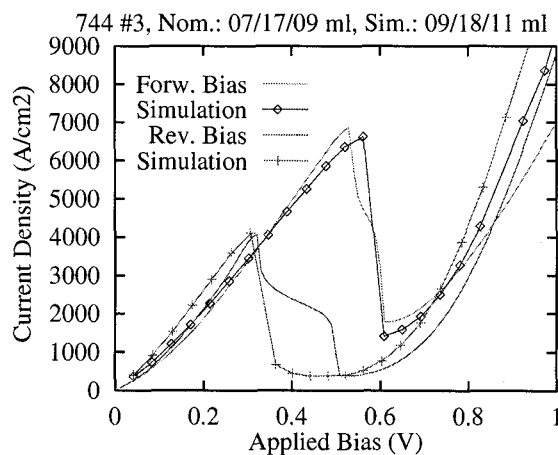


**Four increasingly asymmetric devices:**

20/50/20 Angstrom  
20/50/23 Angstrom  
20/50/25 Angstrom  
20/50/27 Angstrom

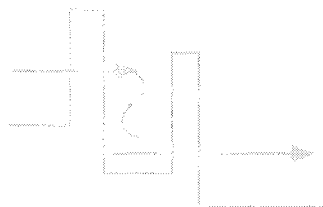
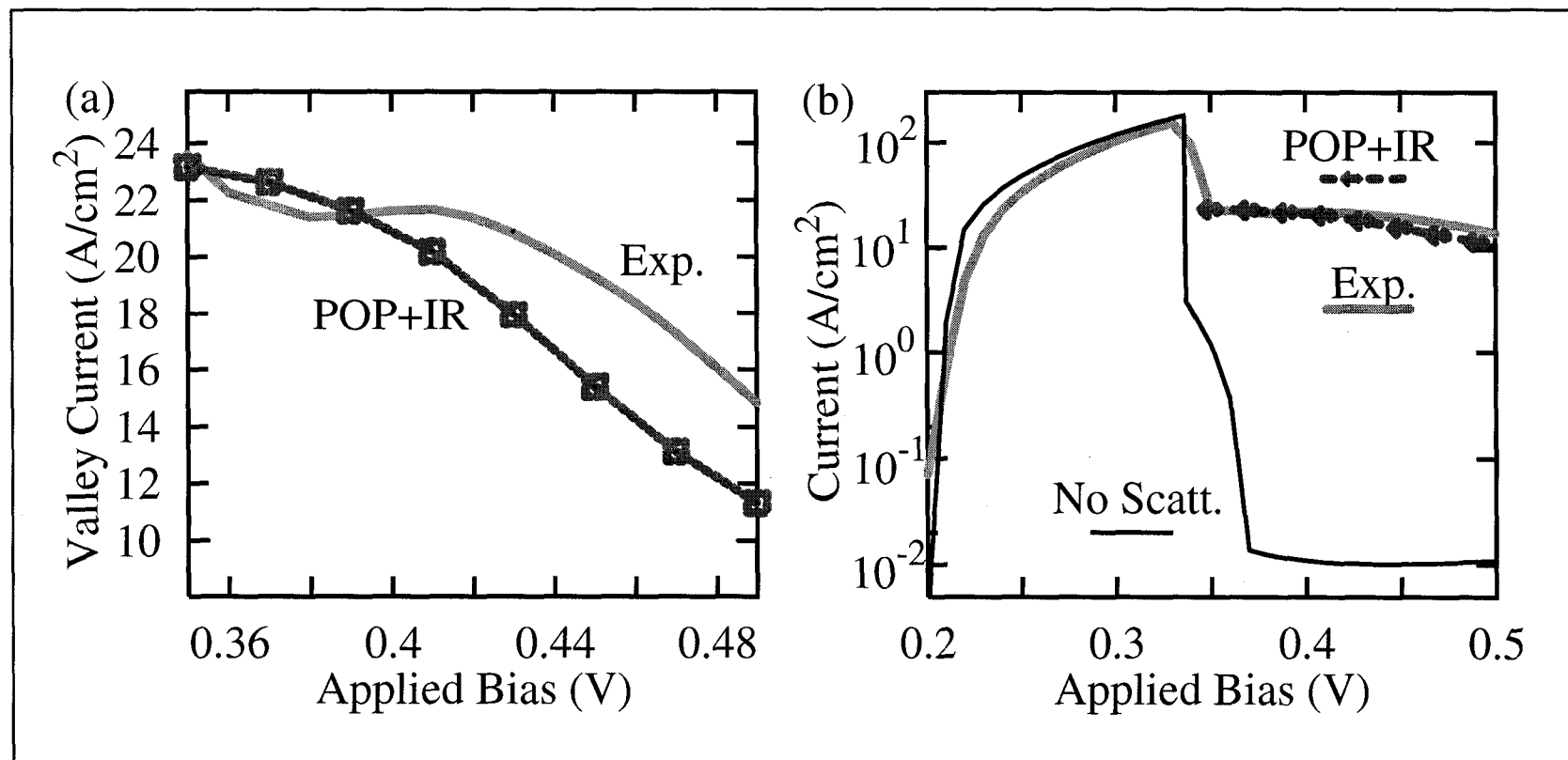


**20/50/ 2**



**Presented at IEEE DRC 1997**

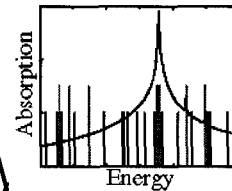
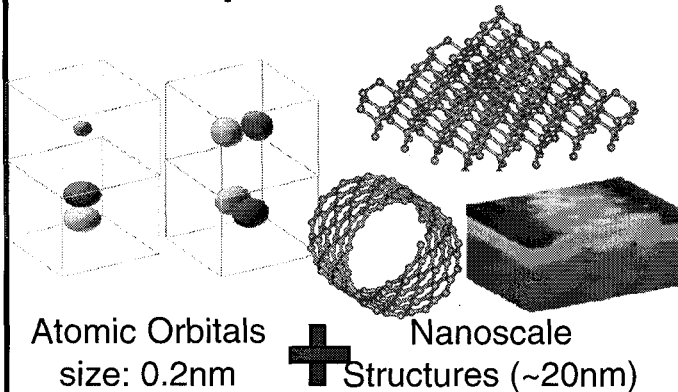
# Tow Temperature: Polar Optical Phonon and Interface Roughness Scattering



scattering raises valley current  
by several orders of magnitude

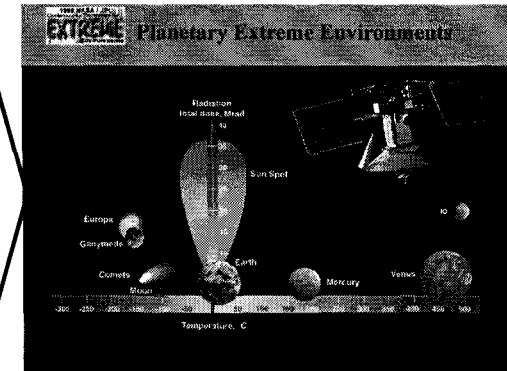
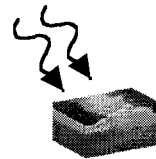
# Nano-scale Device Analysis / Synthesis

## Development of a Bottom-Up Nanoelectronic Modeling Tool (NEMO-3D)



New Devices for  
Sensing and  
Computing

Analyze Devices:  
Environment  
and Failures



### Assertions / Problems:

- Nanoscale structures are built today!  
The design space is huge: choice of materials, compositions, doping, size, shape
- Radiation on today's sub-micron devices modifies the electronics on a nanoscale.

### Approach:

- Deliver a 3-D atomistic simulation tool
- Enable analysis of arbitrary crystal structures, particles, atom compositions and bond/structure at arbitrary temperatures and ambient electric and magnetic fields.

### Collaborators:

- U. of Alabama, Ames, Purdue, Ohio State, NIST

### NASA Relevance:

- Enable new devices needed for NASA missions beyond existing industry roadmap:
  - Water detection -> 2-5 $\mu$ m Lasers and detectors.
  - Avionics -> High density, low power computing.
- Analyze state-of-the-art devices for non-commercial environments:
  - Europa -> Radiation and low temperature effects. Aging and failure modes.
  - Jovian system -> Magnetic field effects
  - Venus -> high temperature materials: SiGe

### Impact:

- Low cost development of revolutionary techn.

## Speakers in the Program

- **Carlo Jacoboni,**  
**Modena University,**  
**“The Wigner function and quantum transport”**
- **Harold Grubin,**  
**SRA, Inc.,**  
**“Modeling resonant tunneling diodes with Wigner functions and density matrices”**
- **Dejan Jovanovic,**  
**Motorola,**  
**“Non-equilibrium Green’s functions for MOSFET modeling”**